



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 26, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As you reconcile the differences between the Senate and House versions of the Homeland Security appropriations bill, I would like to underscore the importance of several provisions critical to California's overall strategy to combat terrorism. Your continued support of these measures will significantly improve our efforts to keep Californians safe.

The foundation of our prevention efforts is sharing information, securing our borders, and providing resources to public safety agencies responsible for enforcing the rule of law and investigating criminal activity. Specifically, the state supports provisions that would: (1) improve information sharing and collaboration; (2) strengthen border security; (3) enhance transportation security; (4) provide grants to states to offset the costs associated with implementing the REAL ID Act; and (5) ensure state and local grant funds are distributed to areas most at risk.

I. Information Sharing

Historically, information sharing and analysis has been a responsibility of the federal government. However, local public safety agencies have been called upon to join their federal partners to collaborate in information fusion centers. In California, my Office of Homeland Security has established the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center and four Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Centers to identify long-term and emerging threats. The effectiveness of these centers relies on active participation from local police, fire and health departments. Unfortunately, federal homeland security grants may not be used to reimburse local public safety agencies for their personnel costs associated with participating in these information centers. For this reason, Congressional direction should be given to the Department of Homeland Security to allow a portion of the preparedness grants to be used for this purpose.

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II. Border Security

California shares a heavily traveled border with Mexico, which increases our vulnerability as a potential entrance point for terrorists. It is crucial that the federal government take all possible steps to secure our border. Ideally, the federal government should invest in a combination of measures to strengthen security and ensure a smooth flow of legitimate commerce and people along our mutual border.

The Senate-passed bill includes \$55 million to complete construction of the San Diego Sector Fence and fund environmental mitigation projects associated with its completion. Both the House and Senate versions provide funding for additional Border Patrol Agents. In addition to supporting these provisions, I ask that the Department's Science and Technology Directorate be provided with Congressional direction to develop technology to detect underground tunnels.

III. Transportation Security

Protecting the aviation, surface and maritime transportation sectors is a major component of the state's homeland security strategy. Within the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration is responsible for aviation and rail security and the United State Coast Guard is coordinating maritime security activities. My Administration collaborates with these entities to leverage limited resources, but additional resources are needed to address the security gaps identified by vulnerability assessments.

Accordingly, I urge you to work with your fellow conferees to provide \$200 million for the port security grants and \$150 million for the rail and transit security grants. Under these grant programs, costs associated with construction should be allowed to provide additional layers of security.

IV. REAL ID Act

Many of the requirements specified in the REAL ID Act will impose significant changes in the way the California Department of Motor Vehicles issue driver licenses and identification cards. For example, the Act requires states to scan and maintain retrievable copies of the identity source documents (e.g. birth certificates, immigration documents, etc.) presented by applicants and will require the Department of Motor Vehicles to verify the authenticity of all identity source documents with the agency that issued the document.

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These requirements will have a major financial impact on the California Department of Motor Vehicles. For this reason, I urge you to support the House provision that provides \$100 million in grants to states for costs associated with implementing the REAL ID Act.

V. State and Local Assistance Grant Programs

There has been substantial debate on how domestic preparedness dollars should be allocated to state and local governments. I support your efforts to ensure that the bulk of local homeland security assistance is distributed based on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities.

In FY 2005, nine areas in California received funding under the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness. The UASI program has fostered better communication, information sharing, collaboration and long term planning among first responder and emergency preparedness agencies in these regions. To continue the progress that has been made on a regional basis in these urban areas, I urge you to preserve the risk-based Urban Area Security Initiative program.

I look forward to working with you on these important homeland security initiatives. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger